(c) if so, what is Government's reaction to regularise these institutes inorder to address grievances of the students of these institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The Government has permitted private initiative in technical edcuation since there is demand for technical manpower within the country as well as in the global market. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has been mandated to assure quality in technical education. The Council has laid down strict norms and standards for setting up new institutions of technical education and for introduction of new technical courses in existing institutions. The expansion in technical education is necessary, especially in the emerging areas of technology so as to keep pace with the global as well as national demand for technical manpower. The AICTE ensures that the quality of these institutions is constantly monitored and upgraded so that the manpower produced by these colleges is accepted globally as well as nationally. For awareness of students, a list of approved technical institutes has been made available on the website of AICTE (www.aicteernet.in). AICTE also publishes notices, from time to time, in leading newspapers, cautioning all concerned to check the approval status of technical institutions before joining them.

Setting up of NTs

650. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new NTs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Ministry would think of upgrading the existing IITs; and

(d) whether there is an idea to set up more IITs in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) In view of the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15th August, 2003 that five new IITs will be set up by upgrading promising academic institutions, the Government has constituted an Expert Committee to identify such academic institutions. The Committee has since submitted its report and the same is under consideration of the Government.